

CT
July 19, 2010

Title of the Hearing: Social Security at 75 Years

Dear Members of The Committee on Ways and Means:

It is time to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. Both damage hardworking Americans by limiting their income at a time when the cost of living far exceeds what it was when the provisions were approved.

As a retired teacher and wife of a retired airline pilot, in the event of his death I will not be entitled to his social security payments. Those payments hit us hard when his career with Trans World Airlines floundered and he was laid off. From time to time, including times when our children were in college, I was the only employed parent. If I had not been employed, we might not have been able to pay our mortgage or the children's college bills.

Now that we are retired, his pension comes from the Pension Guarantee Corporation and - because Trans World Airline failed - is less than what it would have been. That pension, too, will end when he dies.

The Social Security Administration has notified me that because I have a Connecticut teacher's pension, I will be ineligible for about \$770 per month - dollars (but definitely not a windfall) I would be eligible for if I had not taught for twenty-seven years.

Years ago, a wise friend urged me to fight the WEP. I did not understand the impact the provision would have on me and on countless teachers in states like Connecticut that decided teachers could not belong to the social security system.

I urge you to repeal these unfair provisions.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Miles
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